mitigating the consequences should one occur at all. Among various other safety features, containment for the nuclear reactors is provided.

(ii) The plants are constructed as per the standards laid down in the design specifications.

(iii) The plants are operated as per the standards laid down in the Technical Specifications. Qualified and trained personnel are employed for operation.

(iv) Setting up and operation of the plants is continuously reviewed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). The Board is vested with power and operational freedom for making independent reviews and decisions.

(v) All releases from the plants into the environment are regulated by the limits stipulated by the AERB and are complied with.

(vi) Environmental Survey Laboratories are set up at all the plants before the plant goes into operation and these laboratories are in service throughout the plant life.

(vii) Occupational radiation exposures of personnel working in the plants are regulated by limits stipulated by AERB are the complied with.

(viii) An exclusion zone of 1.6 km radius around each operating station is established where no resident public habitation is permitted.

Pesticide Poisioning

1575. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that pesticides were first developed as patent poisons for chemical warfare and are highly poisonous;

(b) whether Government are aware of the occupational health hazards caused by the pesticides to workers, sprayers and if so, the details of such cases recorded during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are over 50 pesticide factories and 800 formulation plants in the country and if so, the details of illnesses reported/recorded; and

(d) whether pesticide poisoning would be notified through an ordinance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Safety of pesticides to man and environment is first scrutinized before allowing its safe and judicious use. Details of occupational health hazards and illnesses are, however, not reported/ recorded under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968.

(d) No, Sir. Already suitable provisions exist under Section 26 of the Insecticides Act, 1968.

Human encounter with drought

1576. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a book named 'Human encounter with drought' revived by Dr. A. T. Dudania, a well-known soniologist on Kalahandi draught; and

(b) what steps have Government taken so far to meet the situation in Kalahandi and other similar cases in the country for protecting the neglected tribal people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Government are aware of the book "Human Encounter with Drought."

(b) Short term as well as long term measures, many of them mentioned in the book have been unde-taken by the Government to mitigate the drought in Kalahandi and other similar districts in the country. The short term measures include relief works for generation of wage employment and assistance for provision of grain, fodder, drinking water facilities etc.

As for long term measure, Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) was introduced in 1973-74 in identified areas including Kalahandi. Under this Programme, sectoral activities like soil and moisture conservation, water resources development, forestry and pasture development which have direct relevance to the drought proofing of the area are undertaken.

Besides, a special programme known as Area Development Approach for Total Backwardness (ADAPT) was implemented from 1987-88 to 1988-89 in a few selected districts, including Kalahandi. Under this programme, special assistance of Rs. 12.14 crores was provided to Kalahandi district for taking up drought proofing measures. Further, various development programmes of the Government, like Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Desert Development Programme, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme etc. are also providing benefits to rural population including tribals in various parts of the country.

Extension of TWRF scheme to partially closing industrial units

1577. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are actively considering to extend the benefits of TWRF scheme in case of partial closure/partial reopennig of industrial units; and

(b) if so, whether Government are going to amend locational policy for new projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) It has not been possible for the Government to extend the TWRF scheme due to funds constraint.

(b) As per the new locational policy of the Government, in locations other than cities with more than 1 million population, there will be no requirement of obtaining industrial approvals from the Central Government except for industries subject to compulsory licensing. In respect of cities which require industrial regeneration and with population greater than one million, a flexible location policy would be adopted.

Unending fragmentations of agricultural lands

1578. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) in view of the fact that small fragmentations of agricultural lands militate against mechanisation of agriculture in our country, what steps are being taken by Government to eradicate the evils of unending fragmentation of agricultural lands;

(b) whether joint farming could obviate the evil effects of fragmentation;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to bring more small farmers under the fold of joint farming;

(d) how many co-operative farming are there in India; and

(e) how many of these Co-operative farming are viable Units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Land is a state subject under the Constitution and States have to take appropriate action to prevent fragmentation of agricultural holdings. However, some States have enacted laws for consolidation of land holdings. Some States have also made laws to prevent fragmentation of land holdings through transfers and partitions. The Central Government's role in prevention of fragmentation of consolidation of land holdings is purely advisory. The State Governments have been advised in various for including Revenue Ministers' Conference to initiate measures for preventing fragmentation of land holdings and consolidation of small holdings.

(b) and (c) Joint farming has not received acceptance among the land holders. However, States are free to adopt mea-